

Washington Wire

McNAMARA MOVES UP his estimate of Red China's missile-launching capabilities. The defense chief's statement that China might shoot off a long-range missile this year brings the projected date two years nearer. But officials still doubt Peking will have any menacing missile arsenal before the mid-1970s.

JITTERS PERSIST in Hong Kong. Many wealthy Chinese plan to emigrate to Taiwan, Canada, the U.S. A continued outflow of capital looms. But authorities doubt the local Communists will renew violence. The Reds content themselves for now with a propaganda war against the British.

REGULATORS PONDER whether it's proper for banks to serve as agents for the New York State lottery. The Home Loan Bank Board rules "no" for savings and loan associations, but three other agencies fail to follow suit. Biggest question: Can House Banking Chairman Patman make good on his threat to bar banks from selling lottery tickets?

HUMPHREY STRAYS from an Administration line: Don't talk up slum-riot dangers, stress positive progress instead. The VP finds the gentle approach fails to catch public attention. For maximum impact, he returns to the old scary stand: The nation must act to prevent riots—or else.

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS plus super-chemicals become a growing arms-race worry.

The CIA, Pentagon develop clandestine methods of detecting buildups, especially in the Soviet. Detection is tricky "but not hopeless." Spy photos can reveal telltale characteristics of facilities making lethal chemicals. Weapons tests yield traces "potentially identifiable" by remote, secret U.S. stations.

The disarmament agency boosts research on biological-chemical weapons. Officials fear big and little nations may turn to them if there's agreement to bar spread of nuclear arms. The agency's conclusion: Treaties, verification systems will be needed to curb the biological-chemical arms race.

An ex-CIA man, Herbert Scoville, heads the disarmament agency effort. Study contracts have gone to Midwest Research Institute and Melpar Inc.

MINOR MEMOS: U.S. Information Agency chief Leonard Marks fears the geodesic dome housing the U.S. exhibit at the Montreal fair may become a hot spot this summer, despite sunshades and air-conditioners. . . . Red Guards broke into the Peking Foreign Ministry recently and made copies of confidential documents, shouting "what's so terrific about secrets, anyway?" . . . FBI director Hoover says more than half the 26 Soviet news reporters in the U.S. serve as intelligence agents. . . . U.S. trade officials report Japanese restrictions on import of fresh grapefruit lift the retail price to \$1 each in Nippon.